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Letter dated 7 September 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government I have the honour to draw your attention to new provocative and unacceptable Turkish actions which undermine the very basis of the high-level agreements and resolutions of the United Nations, in particular those of the Security Council, concerning Cyprus and to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Glafcos Clerides, as issued on 31 August 1998. The President's statement is in reply to the Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash's proposal for a solution to the Cyprus problem made in Cyprus in the presence of the Turkish Foreign Minister, Ismail Cem.

I should point out that the high-level agreements, signed by Mr. Denktash himself, and the resolutions of the Security Council, as the Council has repeatedly reaffirmed, are the basis for the settlement talks of the Cyprus problem. Mr. Denktash's proposal, ab initio unacceptable, runs in blatant violation and disregard of the dictates of the United Nations resolutions and is an affront to the United Nations Organization and the international community as a whole. The said proposal was made in the presence of the Foreign Minister of Turkey during an illegal visit in the occupied part of the Republic. The visit itself is in direct defiance of Security Council resolutions, and such actions have been condemned by the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) James DROUSHIOTIS

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Statement made by the President of the Republic of Cyprus on 31 August 1998

The President of the Republic, Glafcos Clerides, made the following statement today in reply to the statement made by Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash in the presence of the Turkish Foreign Minister, Ismail Cem, in which he puts forward proposals for a solution to the Cyprus problem:

"It is obvious that the intention of the Turkish Government and Mr. Denktash is to turn Cyprus from an independent and sovereign State into two protectorates, which will be subject not only to the unacceptable restrictions imposed by the Treaty of Guarantee but to other worse one-sided restraints and restrictions, such as those included in the association agreement between Turkey and the occupation regime, which has already been deplored.

"Mr. Denktash's proposal is contrary to the high-level agreements and United Nations resolutions, in particular, the recent Security Council resolution which reaffirms the basis for settlement talks.

"Mr. Denktash repeats demands that he has made in talks so far, which would lead to a confederal solution, in spite of the fact that the talks aimed at a federal solution. We have repeatedly denounced these absurd demands by Mr. Denktash to the Security Council, the Secretary-General and the international community in general, who have all expressed their strong objection to them.

"Under no circumstances can Mr. Denktash's proposal form a basis for talks, as it is unacceptable right from the start. It is also contrary to and contemptuous of the resolutions of the United Nations on Cyprus, the high-level agreements that Mr. Denktash himself has signed, the substance and spirit of international law and all the international organizations that have deplored the Turkish side's attempt to question the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus."

The President of the Republic, reaffirming his insistence on talks based on the United Nations resolutions, has already given instructions for the convening of the National Council on Monday, 7 September, to consider the further policy to be adopted on account of the unacceptable Turkish action. At the same time, the President of the Republic has stated that he expects the international community to react directly to Turkey's new provocative action.